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DDA 81-1184

04 JUN 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, Administrative Group, O/Compt

FROM:

Information Handling Systems Architect, DDA

SUBJECT: Comments on the Long Range ADP Plans for NFAC and ODP

1. These plans are useful in giving some insight into the operations, general directions of advance and problems of these organizations. They suffer, however, from lack of guidance as to what is desired, both to the organization and within the organization. The NFAC plan, in particular, is quite uneven among the various offices, with the result that it was not possible to synthesize NFAC requirements into a coherent whole. Because of this general lack of specificity and unevenness, I do not see how they could be specifically related to the proposed budget or to hard choices in constructing the budget priority structure.

2. As general considerations relative to such plans the following observations are offered:

°Organization structure and people planning is a key element in long range planning, and are highly correlated. Very little attention was paid to the time-phased level and characters of personnel resources required over the time period.

°An indication of priorities is vital to an understanding of direction. For example, system availability is ODP's current highest priority management concern and is listed last among its major issues. Although word processing (WP) capabilities have high importance to NFAC, the abundant acquisition of rental equipment has alleviated any immediate urgency for Agency standard WP equipment.

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°An indication of shifting concerns is helpful. For example, with the advent of SAFE and WP, the high priority requirement for "automated office" functions to handle the massive intelligence data flow will be essentially satisfied. Our concerns now probably shift to things like:

- °Improved environment, i.e., "user friendly" systems
- °Enhanced design for security and robustness
- °Support of scientific "number crunching"

Associated with these shifting concerns should be shifting organizational structures and personnel requirements.

°An indication of current or foreseeable problems and planned remedial action is helpful. Examples are the accumulation of information and the efficient use of services.

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3. A few specific comments on the long range plans are:

- °The NFAC plan mentions a need to develop the requirements for interfacing CMASS with SAFE. This is not understood, since CMASS performs SAFE-type functions and exists now as a free-standing system only because SAFE does not. The question would seem to be, how to implement the CMASS functions with SAFE.
- °NFAC talks about developing NFAC standards for ADP packages. We need uniform, Agency-wide standards and have a specifically chartered committee, chaired by the IHSA, to do just that. Such a separate NFAC effort would not be helpful.
- °ODP's computer terminal places do not mention the Agency-standard WP terminal for which the RFP is now being prepared. Although current plans call for these terminals to be bought out of component budgets, vice ODP's as in the case of the  they are a major element in terminal planning. They will interface with the central systems and will require supportive software on these systems.

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\*ODP's terminal plans stop at 1983. Terminal plans--  
all terminals--through 1987 are of major concern. [REDACTED]

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4. Having seen last year's long range plan for ODP, I believe that these represent a significant advance. They still need to be better focused to meet top management needs, but the preparers will need specific guidance to be successful in this. Given the local option environment, they have issued valuable, highly informative products. [REDACTED]

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Attachment: ODP & NFAC Long Range Plans

Distribution:

- Original - Addressee, w/att.
- 1 - DDA Subject, w/o att.
- 1 - IHSA Subject, w/o att.
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DDA/IHSA [REDACTED]

(4 June 1981)

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